

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-04 SP-02 INR-07 /039 W

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R 141159Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8361

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 13569

STADIS//////////

FOR NEA/DUBS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH INDIAN AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE KEWAL SINGH

1. KEWAL SINGH PAID COURTESY CALL ON AMBASSADOR SEPT. 14, OBSERVING THAT HE CURRENTLY HOPED TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON OCT. 7, THREE DAYS AFTER AMBASSADOR KAUL'S PLANNED DEPARTURE. AMBASSADOR SPOKE FRANKLY TO KEWAL SINGH ON SOME OF PROBLEMS HIS PREDECESSOR HAD MADE FOR HIMSELF BY LECTURING TO OFFICIALS, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THE PUBLIC. KEWAL SINGH SAID THAT GOI WAS ANXIOUS TO GET KAUL OUT OF THE US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND WAS CONSCIOUS OF SOME OF THE PROBLEMS THE AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO.

2. KEWAL SINGH HAS A POSITIVE AND OPEN ATTITUDE TOWARD HIS ASSIGNMENT AND TOWARD THE US. THE AMBASSADOR BELIEVES THAT HIS INITIAL TREATMENT IN WASHINGTON CAN SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT THE RELATIONSHIP HE HAS WITH THE DEPARTMENT AND HIS OWN IMPRESSIONS AND THAT IT IS WORTH AN EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT HIS INITIAL IMPRESSION IS ONE OF USG FRIENDLINESS, HELPFULNESS AND COOPERATION. AMBASSADOR HOPES THAT YOU, ROY ATHERTON AND PARTICULARLY UNDER SECRETARY HABIB CAN MAKE TIME FOR SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH KEWAL SINGH THE FIRST WEEK HE IS IN WASHINGTON AND ASSIST HIM IN MEETING SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AS THEY MOVE IN AND OUT OF TOWN IN THE PERIOD AFTER THE CONGRESSIONAL

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ADJOURNMENT. AMBASSADOR HOPES THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIS

PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS CAN BE SPEEDED UP AS MUCH AS
THE PRE-ELECTION PRESIDENTIAL SCHEDULE PERMITS.

3. WE OF COURSE REALIZE THAT INDIAN ATTITUDES TOWARD THE
US ARE NOT GOING TO BE DETERMINED BY WHAT KIND OF AMBASSADOR
THE INDIANS HAVE IN THE US, BUT SOMEONE LIKE KAUL CAN MAKE
THINGS MORE DIFFICULT AND WE THINK SOMEONE LIKE KEWAL SINGH
MAY BE ABLE TO HELP THEM RUN EASIER. IN ANY EVENT, THE
AMBASSADOR STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT WE MAKE THE EFFORT TO
GET KEWAL SINGH OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT.
SAXBE

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